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For further information, contact: Sara Miller or Rick Blair (telephone no. above)

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS SURVEY OF URBAN VIOLENCE PUBLISHED

BEVERLY HILLS: "Urban Violence and Disorder," a special issue of THE AMERICAN BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST (a research-oriented journal in the social sciences) has been released for publication this week. This multi-disciplinary study of urban violence comes at a time when the nation's researchers and policy-makers are involved in a stepped-up debate on urban rioting, brought on by the report by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders earlier this month. The ABS presents studies prepared by a group of 19 behavioral scientists and based on research conducted on urban rioting since 1964.

Edited by LOUIS H. MASOTTI, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Civil Violence Research Center, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, the special issue represents one of the first behavioral science compendiums of riot research reports. Masotti, a consultant to the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, is presently editing for fall publication a book on urban violence to be based, in part, on research in the current issue of the ABS.

This multi-disciplinary ABS study aims at a balanced treatment of the subject of urban riots by integrating theoretical essays with empirical findings, and providing a cross-cultural perspective on the topic by including general and specific reports on urban violence in other nations.

The publication is divided into four sections. The first five articles comprise a set of perspectives on urban violence, including a social-psychological focus on aggression and frustration in a paper entitled "The Study of

Urban Violence: Implications of Laboratory Studies of Frustration and Aggression" by LEONARD BERKOWITZ, Professor of Psychology, University of Wisconsin. A sociological interpretation by ALLEN D. GRIMSHAW, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute for Comparative Sociology at Indiana University is entitled "Three Views of Urban Violence: Civil Disturbance, Racial Revolt, Class Assault." Contained in the section are two additional sociological studies, "Looting in Civil Disorders: An Index of Social Change" by E. L. QUARANTELLI and RUSSEL R. DYNES, Professors of Sociology and Co-directors of the Disaster Research Center at Ohio State University; and "Racial Disturbances as Collective Protest" by KURT and GLADYS ENGEL LANG, respectively, Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, and Assistant Director of the Center for Urban Education, New York City. The political perspective is provided by the paper, "Violence, Law, and the Social Process," by H. L. NIEBURG, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin.

The second section includes research findings and their interpretation, from studies conducted in Cleveland and Watts. The Cleveland presentation is entitled "Deprivation, Mobility, and Orientation Toward Protest of the Urban Poor" and was compiled by MASOTTI; DON R. BOWEN, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Case Western; ELINOR R. BOWEN, Instructor in Political Science, Cleveland State University; and SHELDON GAWISER, a graduate student in political science, Case Western. The Watts study, conducted by T. M. TOMLINSON, a research psychologist with the Office of Economic Opportunity, is entitled "The Development of a Riot Ideology Among Urban Negroes." A project comparing the crises in the cities of Houston, Los Angeles, and Oakland is entitled "Negro opinions in Three Riot Cities" by WILLIAM McCORD, Professor of Sociology at Rice University and author of the "Long Hot Summer;" and JOHN HOWARD, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon.

BURTON LEVY, Director of the Community Relations Division of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, concludes that urban police have too many systemic deficiencies to be effective in riot prevention or control in his study, "Cops in the Ghetto: A Problem of the Police System." RICHARD L. MEIER, Professor of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley, in "Violence: The Last Urban Epidemic," suggests that violence may be viewed as an epidemic which could be controlled by environmental planning, anti-violent drugs, and increased privacy.

The last three articles are designed to provide an international perspective to the analysis of urban violence. GEORGE JENKINS, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science at UCLA, suggests in "Urban Violence in Africa" that African urban violence, linked to the universities, labor unions, political parties, and the police/military, is a function of the developmental stages of organizational interaction and should not be viewed as necessarily disfunctional. DOUGLAS BWY, Assistant Professor of Political Science as Case, and TED GURR, Assistant Professor of Politics and Associate Director of the Workshop in Comparative Politics at Princeton University, building on some distinctions of domestic conflict, offer similar interpretations of conflict in Latin America. Bwy, author of "Dimensions of Social Conflict in Latin America," distinguishes between two types of domestic violence--"turmoil" and "internal war." In the final article, "Urban Disorder: Perspectives from the Comparative Study of Civil Strife," Gurr links his cross-cultural research on civil strife to the recent American experience.

The publication is available from Sage Publications, Inc., 275 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90212. The price is $3.50 for a single copy (quantity discounts available for educational and bulk orders).